Scholarships in ICHR

†2568. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to award scholarships in Indian Council of Historical Research;

(b) whether the members, against whom C.B.I. inquiry in a scam is going on, have awarded scholarships to their family members and relatives; if so, to whom, on what basis and which member awarded such scholarships; and

(c) what action would be taken by Government against the said members and the scholarship holders and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) ICHR has informed that the fellowship grants are awarded in accordance with the research funding rules of the Council. The proposal received from any scholar, for any fellowship, *viz.*, National, Senior, Post-Doctoral or Junior fellowship is scrutinized in ICHR as per rules and then it is referred to a subject matter expert or experts, as the case may be. The proposal is generally referred to such experts who are well known authority on the subject.

The comments obtained from experts are placed before the Research Projects Committee along with the synopsis of the proposal and bio-data of the scholar. The decisions of the Research Projects Committee are treated as final in all such matters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment after studying Astrology

2569. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had introduced courses in Astrology in Indian Universities; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.